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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Frank Addante

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TRI V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1796

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/21/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PATDOCTC@fr.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/851,029	Applicant(s) ADDANTE, FRANK	
	Examiner TRI V. NGUYEN	Art Unit 1796	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2009.

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 78-88 is/are pending in the application.

 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 78-88 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Upon the submission filed on 09/14/09, Claims 1-77 are cancelled. The currently pending claims are Claims 78-88.

Applicants' remarks have been carefully considered; however, they are not found to be persuasive and the 103(a) rejections are maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 78, 80-83 are 85-87 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merriman et al. (US 2002/0072965) in view of Messer et al. (WO 98/57285).

The Merriman et al. reference disclose a method of tracking a click-through exposure via a cookie from an ad server once a user access an affiliate website via a banner ad.

Regarding claim 78, the Merriman et al. reference discloses a method of compiling transaction information comprising:

a) formatting a cookie at an ad server, the cookie including information related to a selection of an advertisement at a content site (§ 18, 19, 26 and 39);

b) storing a cookie at a user node of a user who made the selection ((§ 18, 19, 26 and 39); and

c) providing the cookie from the user node to the ad server whenever the user makes a transaction at a sale site associated with the advertisement ((§ 18, 19, 26 and 39).

The Merriman et al. reference discloses the claimed invention but does not explicitly disclose the feature of tracking subsequent sales transactions at the affiliate/merchant sites. In an analogous art, Messer et al. teach the process of tracking subsequent sales at a merchant sites from users directed from a content site via a click trough of an ad banner and gaining of specific offer compensation (abstract, page 5, lines 23-32; page 7, line 20 to page 8, line 14; page 13, line 24 to page 15, line 16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of the Merriman et al. reference. One would have been motivated to modify the method of compiling transaction information since collecting information regarding the various sales behavior would allows for a more accurate tracking and monitoring of the viewing and transaction session of the user and gain the benefit of a tier/scaling payment schematic.

Regarding claim 80, Merriman et al. and Messer disclose the method of compiling transaction information of claim 78 further comprising providing a query string from the user node to the ad server, wherein the query string includes information related to the transaction made at the sale site (Messer: page 13, line 24 to page 15, line 16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of the Merriman et al. reference. One would have been motivated to modify the method of compiling transaction information since collecting information regarding the various sales behavior would allows for a more

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accurate tracking and monitoring of the viewing and transaction session of the user and gain the benefit of a tier/scaling payment schematic.

Regarding claim 81, Merriman et al. and Messer disclose the method of compiling transaction information of claim 80 wherein the information related to the transaction includes an identification of a purchased product (Messer: page 13, line 24 to page 15, line 16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of the Merriman et al. reference. One would have been motivated to modify the method of compiling transaction information since collecting information regarding the various sales behavior would allow for a more accurate tracking and monitoring of the viewing and transaction session of the user and gain the benefit of a tier/scaling payment schematic targeted to specific offer compensation.

Regarding claim 82, Merriman et al. and Messer disclose the method of compiling transaction information of claim 81 wherein the information related to the transaction includes a purchase price of the purchased product (Messer: page 13, line 24 to page 15, line 16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of the Merriman et al. reference. One would have been motivated to modify the method of compiling transaction information since collecting information regarding the various sales behavior would allow for a more accurate tracking and monitoring of the viewing and transaction

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session of the user and gain the benefit of a tier/scaling payment schematic targeted to specific offer compensation.

Regarding claim 83, Merriman et al. and Messer disclose the method of compiling transaction information of claim 80 further comprising recording at least a portion of the information related to the selection of the advertisement and at least a portion of the information related to the transaction into a data structure for the transaction information in the transaction database (Messer: page 13, line 24 to page 15, line 16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of the Merriman et al. reference. One would have been motivated to modify the method of compiling transaction information since collecting information regarding the various sales behavior would allow for a more accurate tracking and monitoring of the viewing and transaction session of the user and gain the benefit of a tier/scaling payment schematic targeted to specific offer compensation.

Regarding claim 85, Merriman et al. and Messer disclose the method of compiling transaction information of claim 83 wherein the data structure for the transaction information includes information related to the content site, and the method further includes crediting the content site with the transaction (Messer: page 13, line 24 to page 15, line 16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of the Merriman et al. reference. One would have been motivated to modify the method of compiling

transaction information since collecting information regarding the various sales behavior would allow for a more accurate tracking and monitoring of the viewing and transaction session of the user and gain the benefit of a tier/scaling payment schematic targeted to specific offer compensation.

Regarding claim 86, Merriman et al. and Messer disclose the method of compiling transaction information of claim 83 wherein the data structure for the transaction information includes information related to the advertisement, and the method further includes assessing effectiveness of the advertisement by counting a number of transactions related to the advertisement (Messer: page 13, line 24 to page 15, line 16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of the Merriman et al. reference. One would have been motivated to modify the method of compiling transaction information since collecting information regarding the various sales behavior would allow for a more accurate tracking and monitoring of the viewing and transaction session of the user and gain the benefit of a tier/scaling payment schematic targeted to specific offer compensation.

Regarding claim 87, Merriman et al. and Messer disclose the method of compiling transaction information of claim 83 wherein the data structure for the transaction information includes information related to a campaign during which the advertisement is provided, and the method further includes assessing effectiveness of the campaign by counting a number of transactions related to the campaign (Messer:

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page 13, line 24 to page 15, line 16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of the Merriman et al. reference. One would have been motivated to modify the method of compiling transaction information since collecting information regarding the various sales behavior would allow for a more accurate tracking and monitoring of the viewing and transaction session of the user and gain the benefit of a tier/scaling payment schematic targeted to specific offer compensation.

4. Claims 79 and 84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merriman et al. and Messer in view of Angles et al. (5,933,811).

Regarding claim 79, Merriman et al. and Messer disclose the method of compiling transaction information of claim 78 but do not explicitly teach that wherein the cookie further includes information related to a time at which the selection of the advertisement has been made. In an analogous art, Angles et al. discloses the use of cookies to gather information regarding the time at which the ad banner is selected (col 11, lines 5-49; col 15, line 65 to col 16, line 15 and col 20, lines 18-37). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Merriman et al. and Messer. One would have been motivated to modify the method of compiling transaction information since collecting information regarding the time of selection of the advertisement allows for a more accurate tracking and monitoring of the viewing and transaction session of the user.

Regarding claim 84, Merriman et al. and Messer disclose the method of compiling

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transaction information of claim 83 but do not explicitly teach wherein the data structure for the transaction information includes a time of the selection of the advertisement and a time of the transaction, and the method further includes comparing the time of the selection with the time of the transaction to assess time elapsed between the selection and the transaction. In an analogous art, Angles et al. discloses gathering information regarding the time at which the ad banner is selected (col 11, lines 5-49; col 15, line 65 to col 16, line 15 and col 20, lines 18-37). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Merriman et al. and Messer. One would have been motivated to modify the method of compiling transaction information since collecting information regarding the time of selection of the advertisement and subsequently making a comparison between the elapsed time between the selection and the transaction allows for a more accurate tracking and monitoring of the viewing and transaction session of the user, thus collecting important information concerning the effectiveness of the pertinent architectural design.

5. Claim 88 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merriman et al. and Messer in view of Davis et al. (5,796,952).

Regarding claim 88, Merriman et al. and Messer disclose the method of compiling transaction information of claim 83 but do not explicitly teach wherein the data structure for the transaction information includes information related to an amount of time taken to make the transaction, and the method further includes assessing customer serving capabilities of the sale site by analyzing the amount of time taken to make the transaction. In an analogous art, Davis et al. discloses gathering information regarding

tracking the user's interaction with a Web page by monitoring time (col 4, lines 37-54; col 8, lines 6-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Merriman et al. and Messer. One would have been motivated to modify the method of compiling transaction information since collecting information regarding the elapsed time of the transaction allows for a more accurate tracking and monitoring of the viewing and transaction session of the user, thus collecting important information concerning the effectiveness of the pertinent architectural design of the merchant site and helping in future modifications to enhance the user's experience at the merchant site.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 09/14/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that neither Merriman nor Messer teaches the step of "providing the cookie from the user node to the ad server whenever the user makes a transaction at a sale site associated with the advertisement" and indicates the BPAI decision stating that the cookie is edited at the merchant server. The examiner respectfully disagrees and notes that the Merriman teaches the step of providing the cookie to the ad server - see Figure 23, item 23 and the description in § 18. Furthermore, while the Messer reference does not disclose all the features of the present claimed invention, it is used as teaching reference, and therefore, it is not necessary for this secondary reference to contain all the features of the presently claimed invention, *In re Nievelt*, 482 F.2d 965, 179 USPQ 224,226 (CCPA 1973), *In re Keller* 624 F.2d 413,208 USPQ 871, 88 1 (CCPA 198 1). Rather this reference teaches a certain concept, and in combination with the primary reference, discloses the presently claimed invention. Specifically,

the Messer reference is relied upon to teach the feature of editing the cookie, a finding that is consistent with the BPAI decision.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TRI V. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-6965. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on (571) 272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. V. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 1796
December 17, 2009

/Eric W. Stamber/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3622